REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-21 are pending in the application. Claims 1-21 are amended by the present amendment. Support for the amended claims can be found in the original specification, claims and drawings.[1] No new matter is presented.

In the outstanding Official Action, Claims 12 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,587,836 to Ahlberg et al. (hereinafter "Ahlberg"); and Claims 1-11 and 14-21 were allowed.

Applicants appreciatively acknowledge the indication of allowable subject matter, and note that Claims 1-11 and 14-21 are amended only to omit "means-for" language to avoid interpretation under 35 U.S.C. § 112, sixth paragraph.

Further, in the "Allowable Subject Matter" portion, the Official Action states that Ahlberg fails to teach or suggest "the arrangement of the application of a service utilizing means, a service availability means, and an authentication means..." However, Applicants note that the independent claims do not recite these claimed features. Therefore, the pending independent claims are not limited by the language set forth in the statement of reasons for allowance in the outstanding Official Action.

In response to the rejection based on Ahlberg, Applicants respectfully submit that amended independent Claim 12 recites novel features clearly not taught or rendered obvious by the applied references.

As depicted in an exemplary embodiment in Figs. 1 and 5 of the originally filed specification, amended independent Claim 12 relates to a first terminal (e.g., service utilizing terminal 40) for accessing a service (e.g., service B). The first terminal includes a

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[1] e.g., specification, Fig. 5.

communications interface (e.g., communication device 42) configured to exchange data with a second terminal (e.g., authentication requesting terminal 30) and a verifying system (e.g., service verifying system 10). The communications interface of the first terminal is also configured to receive an authorization message (e.g., "permission response") indicating that the first terminal is authorized to access the service, and to transmit a message for utilization of the service based on the received authentication message (e.g., see steps S32-S38 of Fig. 5). The message for utilization is based on a message received by the second terminal indicating that the first terminal is authorized to access the service.

Turning to the applied reference, Ahlberg describes an Internet-based order entry and administration system for ordering and fulfilling a suite of Web enabled applications.[2]

Ahlberg, however, fails to teach or suggest receiving, from the second terminal, an authorization message indicating that the first terminal is authorized to access the service; and transmitting, to the server, a message for utilization of the service based on the received authentication message, as recited in amended independent Claim 12.

In addressing Claim 12, the Official Action relies on Figs. 2 and 7, and, *inter alia*, col. 8, lines 14-35; col. 9, lines 10-29; and col. 24, lines 1-5 and 47-55. Col. 8 of Ahlberg generally describes an HTTPS communications protocol between a client and a server, and how cookies are used to facilitate a secure/trusted relationship. Col. 9, lines 10-29 of Ahlberg describes that if a client is authorized to communicate with a target service that a message noting this authorization is forwarded to the desired service's proxy so that the application server can offer its services via the proxy. Col. 24 of Ahlberg simply describes that a list of services may be displayed to a user based on authentication information entered by the user. Thus, the cited portions of Ahlberg describe a client server relationship, which allows an application service to supply various services to a user or client.
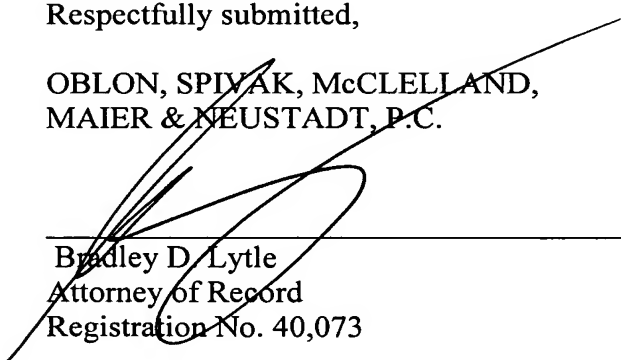
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[2] Ahlberg, Abstract.

In contrast, amended independent Claim 12 recites a first terminal that requests

utilization of a service based on a message received by the second terminal from the verifying

system. Ahlberg describes how a client (20 or 204) is able to access various application

services (208) via a system administration server (202), but fails to teach or suggest that a

first terminal requests access to a service based on the authorization of a first terminal to

access the service. Specifically, Ahlberg fails to teach or suggest receiving, from the second

terminal, an authorization message indicating that the first terminal is authorized to access the

service; and transmitting, to the verifying system, a message for utilization of the service

based on the received authentication message, as recited in amended independent Claim 12.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claim 12 (and

Claim 13 that depends therefrom) under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) be withdrawn.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the forgoing

comments, it is respectfully submitted that the invention defined by Claims 1-21 is patentably

distinguishing over the applied references. The present application is therefore believed to be

in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable reconsideration of the

application is therefore requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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